

61. The method of claim 56, comprising the additional step of after drying, pulverizing and then mixing thus-produced fibers.
62. The method of claim 53, wherein the reaction with monochloro acetic acid is carried out for 4-18 hours.
63. The method of claim 53, comprising the additional step of loosely twisting threads of said fiber together to form a drawn thread array.
64. The method of claim 63, comprising the additional step of plain or twill weaving the drawn thread array to form a woven fabric.
65. The method of claim 63, wherein the drawn fiber array is formed with a thickness of 20-100 Denier.
66. The method of claim 53, comprising the additional step of carrying out shoddy wool treatment of the fibers to form a gauze-like material.

#### REMARKS

The claims in the application are now 34-66.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 34-66 introduced herein respectively correspond to Claims 1-33 and address all formal rejections set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Another copy of Form PTO-1449 from the Information Disclosure Statement timely received by the Patent and Trademark Office on June 2, 2002, is enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the references listed upon enclosed Form PTO-1449 be properly made of record in the prosecution of the present application.

Accordingly, the only outstanding issue is the art rejection of the claims. More

particularly, Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,200,587 to Soe et al. on page 3 of the Office Action while Claims 1-6 and 9-19 have been rejected as obvious over Soe et al. on page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 7 and 8 rejected as obvious additionally in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,962,026 to Edwardson et al. on page 4 of the Office Action, and Claims 20, 23, and 29 rejected as obvious additionally in view of Edwardson et al., U.S. Pat. No. 2,510,355 to Waldeck and U.S. Pat. No. 4,091,205 to Onda et al on page 5 of the Office Action.

Claims 21, 22, 24-28 and 30-33 have not been rejected over any art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, at the very least, corresponding Claims 54, 55, 57-61 and 63-66 are also allowable. In any event, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending herein recite patentable subject matter, for the following reasons.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,200,587 to Soe et al., patented March 13, 2001 (after the international filing date of February 22, 2001 of the present application) is assigned to Hoky Medical Co., Ltd. (please see the face of the patent); the present application is also assigned to Hoky Medical Co., Ltd., recorded at the Patent and Trademark Office on October 22, 2001 at Reel 012639, Frame 0388. Accordingly, both the present application and U.S. Pat. No. 6,200,587 were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Hoky Medical Co., Ltd. Thus evidence of common ownership has been established in accordance with M.P.E.P. §706.02(I)(2)(II) to disqualify Soe et al. as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103 and M.P.E.P. §706.02(I)(1). Since Soe et al has been disqualified as prior art, the rejections of Claims 1-20, 23 and 29 over Soe et al. in combination with the other references have been eliminated.

Accordingly, the only outstanding issue is the anticipatory rejection of Claims 1 and 2 over Soe et al. In this regard, it is pointed out that joint inventor Gilbu Soe of U.S. Pat. No. 6,200,587 is the same person as joint inventor Yoshio Jo of the present application; "Gilbu Soe" was change to –Yoshio Jo– when he acquired Japanese nationality. In any event, it is respectfully pointed out that the invention as recited in Claims 34 and 35 herein is not anticipated by Soe et al., for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a trauma-healing, hemostatic cellulose fiber imparted with coagulation proteins and carboxymethylated to a specific extent. Soe et al. are directed to a tissue sealant comprising a combination of thrombin, fibrinogen, carboxymethylcellulose (CMC) or alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt thereof which is prepared by admixing thrombin and CMC with fibrinogen (col. 3, lines 17-23) or adding the CMC to a fibrinogen followed by adding a thrombin, or alternatively adding CMC to fibrin adhesive (col. 4, lines 6-17). Examples 1 and 2 at col. 6, lines 5-62 of Soe et al describe preparing lyophilized CMC powder which is then added to a fibrin adhesive.


In other words, Soe et al. fail to disclose preparation of a trauma-healing hemostatic fiber. Accordingly, Soe et al fail to anticipate the claimed invention.

In view of the forgoing amendment and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, then it is respectfully requested that the undersigned

attorney be contacted at the earliest convenience to discuss the present application. A petition for an automatic one month extension of time for response under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is enclosed in triplicate together with the requisite petition fee.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO.  763-29	SERIAL NO.  10/069,561
	APPLICANT  Jo et al.	
	FILING DATE October 22, 2001	GROUP  Art Unit: 3731

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENT

EXAMINER INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4 7 5 2 4 6 6	6/88	Saferstein et al.			
	4 6 5 5 2 1 1	4/87	Sakamoto et al.			
	5 6 3 1 0 1 1	5/97	Wadstrom			
	5 2 9 2 3 6 2	3/94	Bass et al.			
	5 4 2 0 2 5 0	5/95	Lontz			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

							TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		9 5 6 8 6 9	11/99	European				
		3 0 5 7 4 4 6	4/00	Japan				
		9 6/ 4 0 1 7 4	12/96	International				
		9 6/ 1 7 6 3 3	6/96	International				
		9 7/ 4 4 0 1 5	11/97	International				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE CONSIDERED \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.